

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03299 191917Z

61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2298

INFO USFINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3299

USCINCSO FOR J-2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CO

SUBJECT: POLICE INVOLVEMENT IN MURDER CASE

1. U.S. REPORTERS IN BOGOTA TO COVER THE ELECTIONS HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN A CASE IN WHICH AGENTS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (F-2) ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING MURDERED TWO PERSONS AND THROWN THEIR BODIES INTO A RIVER CANYON. STORIES ABOUT THE CASE MAY APPEAR IN THE U.S. PRESS AND WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO PROVIDE HERE THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM TO COUNTER CHARGES THAT THE COLOMBIAN POLICE HAVE ESTABLISHED A DEATH SQUAD.

2. LT. COL. CARLOS GUZMAN, CHIEF OF F-2, HAS AUTHORITY OVER AGENTS EMPLOYED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. A MAJOR PROBLEM, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THAT LOCAL POLICE COMMANDERS HAVE HAD THE AUTHORITY TO RECRUIT AGENTS, LABEL THEM AS F-2 AND PUT THEM TO WORK. GUZMAN HAS ABSOLUTELY NO CONTROL OVER THESE AGENTS.

3. IN THE CASE IN QUESTION, LOCAL F-2 AGENTS FROM GIRADOT ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING MURDERED TWO
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03299 191917Z

YOUNG MEN FROM THE TOWN AND OF TOSSING THEIR

BODIES OVER THE TEQUENDAMA FALLS. AT LEAST SIX
F-2 AGENTS FROM GIRADTO ARE SAID TO BE INVOLVED
IN THE CASE.

4. THE CASE HAS RECEIVED SENSATIONAL TREATMENT IN THE
BOGOTA PRESS. GUZMAN HAS COMPLAINED TO THE
MINISTER OF DEFENSE ABOUT HIS LACK OF CONTROL AND THE
MINISTER HAS PROMISED TO GIVE GUZMAN IN WRITING
AUTHORITY OVER ALL F-2 AGENTS IN THE COUNTRY.

5. TWO IMPORTANT POINTS WE WISH TO MAKE ARE THAT:
1) COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS HAVE MOVED RAPIDLY TO CORRECT
THE DEFICIENCY IN THE F-2 ORGANIZATION AND 2) THERE IS
NO DEATH SQUAD IN COLOMBIA.
VAKY

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